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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-third Meeting
Montreal, 15-19 December 2023
Item 9(c) of the provisional agenda¹

PROJECT PROPOSAL: GAMBIA (THE)

This document consists of the comments and recommendation of the Secretariat on the following project proposal:

Phase-out

- HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, second tranche) UNEP and UNIDO

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/1

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Gambia (The)

(I) PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan (stage II)	UNEP (lead), UNIDO	86 th	100% phase-out by 2030

(II) LATEST ARTICLE-7 DATA (Annex C Group I)	Year: 2022	0.17 ODP tonnes
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(III) LATEST COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)							Year: 2022		
Chemical	Aerosol	Foam	Fire-fighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Process agent	Lab use	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing				
HCFC-22					0.17				0.17

(IV) CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009-2010 baseline:	1.5	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	1.5
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING			
Already approved:	1.5	Remaining:	0

(V) ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2023	2024	2025	Total
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
	Funding (US \$)	180,800*	0	0	180,800
UNIDO	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
	Funding (US \$)	141,100*	0	0	141,100

Including US \$79,100 for UNEP and US \$32,100 for UNIDO for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency (decision 89/6)

(VI) PROJECT DATA			2020	2021-2022	2023*	2024	2025-2026	2027	2028-2029	2030	Total
Montreal Protocol consumption limits (ODP tonnes)			0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.00	n/a
Maximum allowable consumption (ODP tonnes)			0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.00	n/a
Funding agreed in principle (US \$)	UNEP	Project costs	100,000	0	145,000	0	0	106,000	0	54,000	405,000
		Support costs	13,000	0	18,850	0	0	13,780	0	7,020	52,650
	UNIDO	Project costs	90,000	0	145,000	0	0	0	0	0	235,000
		Support costs	8,100	0	13,050	0	0	0	0	0	21,150
Funds approved by ExCom (US \$)	Project costs		190,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	190,000
	Support costs		21,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21,100
Total funds recommended for approval at this meeting (US \$)	Project costs		0	0	290,000	0	0	0	0	0	290,000
	Support costs		0	0	31,900	0	0	0	0	0	31,900

*Funding for 2023 includes US \$55,000, plus agency support costs of US \$7,150, for UNEP and US \$45,000, plus agency support costs of US \$4,050, for UNIDO for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency (decision 89/6)

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of the Gambia, UNEP as the lead implementing agency has submitted a request for funding for the second tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), at a total cost of US \$321,900, consisting of US \$145,000, plus agency support costs of US \$18,850, for UNEP and US \$145,000, plus agency support costs of US \$13,050, for UNIDO.² The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the first tranche, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2018 to 2022, a request for funding additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector,³ and the tranche implementation plan for 2024 to 2026.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of the Gambia reported a consumption of 0.17 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2022, which is 89 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in the Gambia (2018-2022 Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	4.00	3.00	3.80	3.50	3.00	27.3
ODP tonnes	0.22	0.17	0.21	0.19	0.17	1.5

3. The Government of the Gambia has maintained a steady decreasing trend in HCFC consumption due to the implementation of the licensing and quota system; training of refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) technicians which has resulted in good servicing practices; and awareness programmes organized by the national ozone unit (NOU) which have resulted in fewer HCFC imports. The closure of major fish processing factories that were using HCFC-22-based equipment in 2016, and an increase in the uptake of RAC equipment using alternative refrigerants (i.e., R-410A, HFC-134a, R-600a and R-290) have also contributed to the reduced consumption of HCFC-22.

Country programme implementation report

4. The Government of the Gambia reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2022 country programme (CP) implementation report that is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

Verification report

5. The verification report confirmed that the Government was implementing a licensing and quota system for HCFC imports and exports and that the total consumption of HCFCs reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol for 2018 to 2022 was correct (as shown in table 1 above). The verification concluded that the Gambia has an enforceable licensing and quota system with a robust national system of monitoring imports of HCFCs. Specific recommendations for improving this system included the allocation of annual quotas on a calendar basis based on historical imports; the establishment of an online permitting system to enhance the collaboration among enforcement agencies; increased awareness raising and training of customs officers to identify refrigerant purity to control the entry of low-quality refrigerants; the provision of additional refrigerant identifiers at all entry points; additional training on HS codes for customs officers; and raising awareness on the benefits of adopting low-GWP-energy-efficient alternative technologies. UNEP noted that the Government of the Gambia is committed to implementing these recommendations as part of stage II of the HPMP.

² As per the letter of 5 October 2023 from the National Environment Agency of the Gambia to the Secretariat.

³ In line with decision 89/6, low-volume-consuming countries can include in their HPMPs additional activities for the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low or zero global-warming potential and for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector.

Status of implementation of stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan

6. Stage I of the HPMP was completed on 31 December 2021, in line with the country's Agreement with the Executive Committee and the project completion report was submitted on 29 May 2023.

Progress report on the implementation of the first tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

7. The Gambia established regulations to control ODS in 1999 which were revised in 2013 to incorporate the accelerated the phase-out of HCFCs. The licensing and quota system for HCFCs was established in 2004 and became operational in 2011. A ban on the import of HCFC-22-based equipment has been in force since 1 January 2020. The Government of the Gambia is currently reviewing the ozone regulations in order to establish a ban on the import of HCFCs by 1 January 2025. The Government of the Gambia ratified the Kigali Amendment on 5 May 2021.

8. Under the first tranche of stage II of the HPMP three training sessions were held for a total of 90 newly recruited customs and security officers on how to identify illegal trade of controlled substances. Additionally, the NOU conducted one training workshop for a total of 20 enforcement officers (including five women) on how to identify ozone depleting substances and monitor their import. The procurement process for the five refrigerant identifiers for ports of entry was initiated but the delivery has been delayed by the supplier and is expected by the end of 2023.

Refrigeration servicing sector

9. During the first tranche, a draft competency standard for the proposed RAC technician certification scheme was developed in collaboration with the Gambia Bureau of Standards; these standards were also reviewed by key stakeholders in the RAC sector. Consultative meetings took place with the University of the Gambia and other training institutes on the details for the establishment of a certification scheme for RAC technicians. To pilot the certification process, the NOU organised one training for 25 RAC technicians (including 10 women). The national RAC servicing codes of practice were updated. The NOU also participated in a series of online meetings aimed at developing minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) and held two consultation meetings to promote the adoption of energy-efficient RAC appliances and one consultation meeting to initiate the development of policies that support green procurement in public institutions.

10. A total of 115 RAC technicians (including 29 woman) attended the five training workshops on good refrigeration servicing practices, the certification process and servicing codes of practice; and 15 women participated in a special training workshop for RAC technicians on the role of women in the RAC sector. An assessment of equipment needs for centres of excellence was carried out and the procurement was initiated with delivery expected by the end of 2023.

Project implementation and monitoring

11. Of the US \$10,000 approved for project monitoring US \$5,000 was disbursed to support monitoring and implementation of stage II including three field visits to ensure compliance with best practices in the RAC servicing sector.

Level of fund disbursement

12. As of October 2023, of the US \$190,000 approved so far (US \$100,000 for UNEP and US \$90,000 for UNIDO), US \$119,000 (63 per cent) had been disbursed (US \$45,000 for UNEP and US \$74,000 for UNIDO). The balance of US \$71,000 will be disbursed in 2023.

Implementation plan for the second tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

13. The following activities will be implemented between January 2024 and December 2026:

- (a) *ODS policy and regulations*: one capacity building workshop for the NOU and training for 30 customs and enforcement officers on national technical standards for low-GWP energy-efficient RAC system and an awareness workshop for end users on the benefits of using low-GWP technologies; and training for 30 procurement officers on the green procurement of RAC systems and field visits to 20 institutions to verify compliance with green procurement standards (UNEP) (US \$30,000 and US \$20,000 from the previous tranche);
- (b) *ODS customs and enforcement training*: training of 80 customs and enforcement officers on monitoring, control, and identification of HCFC and HCFC-based equipment; one subregional dialogue on sharing experiences and challenges in the implementation of Montreal Protocol programmes (UNEP) (US \$25,000 and US \$10,000 from the previous tranche); and delivery of refrigerant identifiers for customs ports of entry (UNIDO) (US \$5,000 from the previous tranche);
- (c) *RAC technician certification, training and equipment*: three training sessions for a total of 75 RAC technicians on the safe handling of hydrocarbon (HC) refrigerants; training for 15 participants from regional RAC associations on the importance of technician certification and the certification process; and two capacity building workshops for 50 RAC technicians on the certification process; and a public awareness radio campaign on HCFCs and ozone friendly alternatives (UNEP) (US \$20,000 and US \$20,000 from the previous tranche);
- (d) *Strengthen existing and establish new centres of excellence*: finalise the equipment delivery for the existing three centres of excellence; preparation of a feasibility study on the establishment of a reclamation centre and training and procurement of necessary equipment based on results of the study; train-the-trainer programme online through the Vienna Clean Cooling Hub; end user awareness raised on HC use, safety, installation and servicing (UNIDO) (US \$100,000 and US \$11,000 from the previous tranche);
- (e) Activities to maintain energy efficiency: these activities are described in detail in the following section (UNEP) (US \$55,000) and (UNIDO) (US \$45,000); and
- (f) *Project monitoring*: (UNEP) (US \$15,000 and US \$5,000 from the previous tranche) to cover staff for monitoring, evaluation, and coordination; travel costs to visit project sites; and workshops and meetings.

Activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector

14. The project related to energy efficiency, submitted in line with decision 89/6, is designed to increase the coordination among key stakeholders for the establishment of MEPS in the Gambia which are currently under preparation; and to raise awareness on the benefits of adopting low-GWP and energy-efficient

technologies among the consumers. The description and proposed cost breakdown of activities to maintain energy efficiency in the sector include:

- (a) *Capacity building for key stakeholders*: two coordination meetings with key stakeholders for enforcement of MEPS (e.g., Energy Department, Gambia Bureau of Standards, Gambia Public Utility Regulatory Authority) to ensure relevant authorities and bodies consider low-GWP refrigerants during the development of cooling and energy efficiency plans, including MEPS, labelling and testing; update of training material for RAC technicians to strengthen adoption of good practices in servicing energy-efficient equipment including safety in handling flammable refrigerants; training workshops for RAC trainers and technicians using updated training material; application of competency-based certification schemes for technicians to servicing energy-efficient equipment, and strengthening of national institutions (UNIDO) (US \$45,000); and
- (b) *Outreach and impact assessment*: regular public awareness campaign including the development of outreach materials and communication tools (such as website, brochures, media reports, TV, and radio broadcasts) and a survey of consumer behaviour related to purchasing of RAC appliances; an awareness raising campaign targeting importers, retailers, wholesalers and distributors on MEPS and labelling regulations, and energy efficiency (UNEP) (US \$55,000).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Progress report on the implementation of the first tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

15. The Government of the Gambia has already issued HCFC import quotas for 2023 at 0.22 ODP tonnes, which is lower than the Montreal Protocol control target.

Refrigeration servicing sector

16. With regard to the certification scheme for technicians and the development of technical standards for certification, UNEP clarified that technicians would be certified only if they receive a formal RAC training qualification from a centre accredited by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institute. Any technician who is not trained, certified, and accredited by the TVET would not be allowed to operate in the servicing sector, and this would be closely monitored by both the NOU and the TVET through random inspections of workshops. Currently, the certification of technicians is voluntary; however, once the technical standards are finalized, the objective will be to make it mandatory. The Government of the Gambia recognizes that it will take time to fully institutionalize this certification programme, thus the priority is to establish the technical standards. UNEP emphasized that with the development of the standards and the consequent training that will follow, the RAC servicing technicians will be encouraged to fully implement the codes of good practice during the servicing of RAC systems.

17. UNEP also clarified that the update to the national codes of conduct for RAC servicing technicians and revision of the national RAC training curriculum is ongoing, the updates are expected to be completed in 2024 and once completed will enhance good servicing skills for RAC technicians. This and the updated training curriculum will be integrated into all training programmes for technicians.

18. In response to the Secretariat's question on the reasons for the delay in the delivery of RAC training equipment and its impact on the training workshops, UNEP explained that this was mainly due to supply chain issues related to the procurement of the tools and equipment; and that the Government is committed to expedite the training once the equipment is received.

Activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector

19. In line with decision 89/6(d), UNEP and UNIDO have included in the tranche implementation plan the specific actions, performance indicators and funding associated with additional activities to maintain energy efficiency.

20. Upon request for clarification, UNEP explained that the Government of the Gambia is currently in the process of finalizing their national MEPS which adopt the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) approved MEPS regulation. Formal adoption of the MEPS will include the establishment of a labelling system which would also be consistent with that established by ECOWAS. The proposed activities under decision 89/6 will facilitate the faster establishment of these MEPS and the awareness raising activities will support the requirements to ensure their implementation. UNEP also explained that the Gambia is an equipment importing country, and currently the market availability of low-GWP energy-efficient RAC equipment is low. The consumer survey that will be undertaken as part of these activities will identify consumer behaviour and will be used to design actions to encourage them to buy more energy-efficient equipment using low-GWP refrigerants, including possible incentives to support these.

21. In response to how these activities link to a readiness project⁴ funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) whose objective is to develop a national cooling plan, a legislative framework for MEPS and labels for climate friendly air conditioners and residential refrigerators in the country, UNEP indicated that the NOU will be working closely with the same stakeholders of this project, in particular the Gambia Bureau of Standards. These activities will support the direct coordination and collaboration with the NOU to ensure that the requirements of the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment are met when this legislative framework for MEPS is finalized. In addition, these additional activities will also build the capacity of technicians and importers for better understanding on how to consider energy efficiency of equipment, and how these can be serviced to maintain efficiency.

Gender policy implementation

22. The Government of the Gambia, UNEP and UNIDO are fully committed to implementing the operational gender mainstreaming policy of the Multilateral Fund in line with decisions 84/92(d) and 90/48(c). During the implementation of stage II of the HPMP a special training session on women technicians in the RAC sector was held and gender disaggregated data was collected from all HPMP training workshops as indicated in the progress report. The NOU will continue to implement measures for maximising participation of women in capacity building, training, and other stage II HPMP activities. It will also continue to take steps to collect gender-disaggregated data to understand the impact of the measures implemented for the application of the gender mainstreaming policy. These steps will progressively strengthen gender mainstreaming while implementing the HPMP in the country.

Updated Agreement

23. In view of the inclusion of funding for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector and the accordingly revised funding schedule, the Agreement between the Government of the Gambia and the Executive Committee has been updated. Specifically, Appendix 2-A has been revised and paragraph 17 has been added to indicate that the updated Agreement supersedes that

⁴ Leapfrogging to energy-efficient and climate friendly air conditioners and refrigerators in The Gambia

reached at the 86th meeting, as contained in Annex I to the present document. The full updated Agreement will be appended to the final report of the 93rd meeting.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out and assessment of risks

24. The Government of the Gambia continues to implement its import/export control policies for controlling HCFC consumption in line with the Montreal Protocol and its HPMP Agreement targets. A ban on the imports of HCFC-22-based equipment has been enforced since January 2020 and has contributed to the reduction of consumption of HCFCs in the country. The Government of the Gambia has integrated the customs training programme into the curricula of the customs training centre where master trainers are trained to ensure continuity and sustainability of these trainings; and the long-term sustainability of the training provided to RAC technicians will be supported by the procurement of tools and equipment for RAC institutes which will continue to facilitate capacity building in the RAC servicing sector and ensure technicians can be better trained in the long-term. UNEP assessed the risks associated with the implementation of stage II of the HPMP and noted that the implementation of the HPMP is supported by a network of stakeholders who work closely with the NOU to ensure the success of the implementation of the HPMP by supporting the uptake of new technologies and help promote the policies and procedures enacted by the Government.

Conclusion

25. The verification report has confirmed that the country has an operational import/export licensing and quota system; the Government of Gambia is committed to implementing the recommendations as part of stage II of the HPMP; the HCFC-22 consumption of 0.17 ODP tonnes in 2022 is 89 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance. The Government is implementing additional activities to maintain and enhance energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector which will support the introduction of MEPS and support the uptake of energy-efficient, low- and zero-GWP alternative technologies in the RAC sector. The activities in the servicing sector are progressing, and close cooperation has been established with vocational training centres and the refrigeration association to ensure sustainability of training activities. The fund disbursement rate is 63 per cent and activities for stage II are proceeding on time.

RECOMMENDATION

26. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee note:
- (a) The progress report on the implementation of the first tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for the Gambia;
 - (b) The submission of additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector in the amount of US \$111,200, consisting of US \$55,000, plus agency support costs of US \$7,150, for UNEP and US \$45,000, plus agency support costs of US \$4,050, for UNIDO; and
 - (c) That the Fund Secretariat has updated the Agreement between the Government of the Gambia and the Executive Committee, as contained in Annex I to the present document, specifically Appendix 2-A, based on the revised funding level due to the inclusion of funding for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector referred to in subparagraph (a)(ii) above; and paragraph 17 that has been added to indicate that the updated Agreement supersedes that reached at the 86th meeting.

27. The Fund Secretariat further recommends blanket approval of the second tranche of stage II of the HPMP for the Gambia, and the corresponding 2024-2026 tranche implementation plan, at the funding levels shown in the table.

	Project title	Project funding (US \$)	Support costs (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, second tranche)	145,000	18,850	UNEP
(b)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, second tranche)	145,000	13,050	UNIDO

Annex I

UPDATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE REDUCTION IN CONSUMPTION OF HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STAGE II OF THE HCFC PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Relevant changes are in bold font for ease of reference)

17. This updated Agreement supersedes the Agreement reached between the Government of the Gambia and the Executive Committee at the 86th meeting of the Executive Committee.

APPENDIX 2-A: THE TARGETS, AND FUNDING

Row	Particulars	2020	2021-2022	2023	2024	2025-2026	2027	2028-2029	2030	Total
1.1	Montreal Protocol reduction schedule of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.49	0.49	0.49	0	n/a
1.2	Maximum allowable total consumption of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.49	0.49	0.49	0	n/a
2.1	Lead IA (UNEP) agreed funding (US \$)	100,000	0	145,000	0	0	106,000	0	54,000	405,000
2.2	Support costs for Lead IA (US \$)	13,000	0	18,850	0	0	13,780	0	7,020	52,650
2.3	Cooperating IA (UNIDO) agreed funding (US \$)	90,000	0	145,000	0	0	0	0	0	235,000
2.4	Support costs for Cooperating IA (US\$)	8,100	0	13,050	0	0	0	0	0	21,150
3.1	Total agreed funding (US \$)	190,000	0	290,000	0	0	106,000	0	54,000	640,000
3.2	Total support costs (US \$)	21,100	0	31,900	0	0	13,780	0	7,020	73,800
3.3	Total agreed costs (US \$)	211,100	0	321,900	0	0	119,780	0	61,020	713,800
4.1.1	Total phase-out of HCFC 22 agreed to be achieved under this Agreement (ODP tonnes)									0.98
4.1.2	Phase-out of HCFC 22 to be achieved in the previous stage (ODP tonnes)									0.52
4.1.3	Remaining eligible consumption for HCFC-22 (ODP tonnes)									0

*Date of completion of stage I as per stage I Agreement: 31 December 2021.